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PTQ0169

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)PAGE 01 CARACA 00118 01 OF 03 221315Z
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	MFA-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CEA-01
	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00	EXIM-01	E-00	FAAE-00
	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01	LAB-01
	L-00	CAC-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	OCS-03
	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PC-01	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	USIE-00
	ASDS-00	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/015W			

-----299CCB 221315Z /38

O 132129Z JAN 03 ZDS ZDK CITING RUEHCB 1810 0220131

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9538

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELIZE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GRENADA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

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PAGE 02 CARACA 00118 01 OF 03 221315Z

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: APPEALS REVIEW PANEL

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

DECLASSIFY AFTER: 13 JAN 2023

APPEAL ACTION: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELEASED

REASON(S): B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

DATE/CASE ID: 23 SEP 2008 200500970

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
DATE/CASE ID: 16 JUN 2006 200500970

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USCINCSO MIAMI FL PRIORITY
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 CARACAS 000118

C O R R E C T E D COPY - PARA NUMBERING

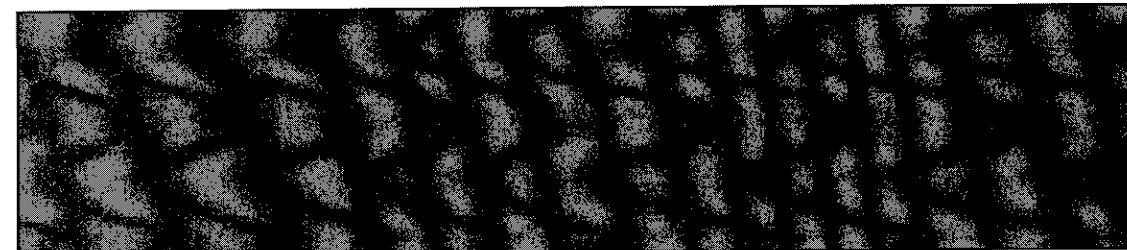
TREASURY FOR OASIA/INL - AARON JONES
NCS FOR LLORENS
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
STATE PASS USAID FOR DCHA/OTI - ULLIRICH AND PORTER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/13/2013
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, ECON, ASEC, CASC, OAS, VE
SUBJECT: VENEZUELA: POLITICAL UPDATE: JANUARY 13, 2003

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CARACA 00118 01 OF 03 221315Z
CLASSIFIED BY: DCM FREDERICK B. COOK FOR REASONS 1.5(B) AND (D)

SUMMARY:



-- (U) POLICE USED TEAR GAS, RUBBER BULLETS AND WATER CANNON TO DISPERSE VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN CARACAS AND MARACAIBO. THE EMBASSY,S CONSULAR AGENT IN MARACAIBO SAID PRO-GOV DEMONSTRATORS BROKE INTO AND RANSACKED A MACDONALD,S RESTAURANT.

-- (U) LEADERS OF THE PETROLEUM WORKERS UNION UNAPETROL ANNOUNCED JANUARY 13 THAT THE GOV WAS COVERING UP OIL SPILLS, THEREBY RISKING ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE.

-- (C) DIOSDADO CABELLO, [REDACTED] WILL MOVE TO MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE, REPLACING ELIECER HURTADO, CHAVEZ ANNOUNCED JANUARY 12.



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PAGE 04 CARACA 00118 01 OF 03 221315Z

-- (U) THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE ISSUED A STATEMENT READ TO ALL CHURCH-GOERS ON SUNDAY URGING BOTH SIDES TO LOOK HARDER FOR AN ELECTORAL SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT CRISIS. THE BISHOPS CALLED ON GOV AUTHORITIES TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM VIOLENCE, AND CALLED ON ALL PARTIES TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF OAS SYG GAVIRIA.

END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ0175

PAGE 01 CARACA 00118 02 OF 03 221315Z

ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	MFA-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CEA-01
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	SRPP-00	DS-00	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00	EXIM-01	E-00
	FAAE-00	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	ITC-01	LAB-01	L-00	CAC-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	OCS-03	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PC-01	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	STR-00	USIE-00	ASDS-00	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00
	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/015W	

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O 132129Z JAN 03 ZDS ZDK CITING RUEHCB 1810 0220131
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9539
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY BELIZE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
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PAGE 02 CARACA 00118 02 OF 03 221315Z

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AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY
USCINCSO MIAMI FL PRIORITY
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 CARACAS 000118

C O R R E C T E D COPY - PARA NUMBERING

TREASURY FOR OASIA/INL - AARON JONES
NCS FOR LLORENS
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
STATE PASS USAID FOR DCHA/OTI - ULLIRICH AND PORTER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/13/2013
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CARACA 00118 02 OF 03 221315Z

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 POLICE REACT AT VIOLENT MARCHES

3. (U) REGIONAL POLICE TEMPORARILY DISPERSED A PRO-CHAVEZ CONCENTRATION OF DEMONSTRATORS IN MARACAIBO (ZULIA STATE), VENEZUELA, S SECOND LARGEST CITY, DECEMBER 13 AFTER TWO RIVAL CROWDS OF ANTI-GOV AND PRO-CHAVEZ PROTESTORS CAME WITHIN A 100 YARDS OF EACH OTHER, SHOTS RANG OUT AND MEMBERS OF THE PRO-CHAVEZ GROUPS THREW ROCKS. THE EMBASSY, S CONSULAR AGENT IN MARACAIBO REPORTED THAT PRO-GOV DEMONSTRATORS BROKE INTO AND RANSACKED A MACDONALD, S RESTAURANT. GUN FIRE WAS HEARD ON LIVE BROADCASTS AS MARACAIBO POLICE WEARING RIOT GEAR USED TEAR GAS, ARMORED VEHICLES, AND WATER CANNON TO DISPERSE THE CROWD. IN CARACAS, AN EVENT MARKING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE POLITICAL PARTY COPEI WAS MARRED BY VIOLENCE JANUARY 13 AS PRO-CHAVEZ DEMONSTRATORS THREW ROCKS AT COPEI MARCHERS. POLICE FIRED WEAPONS INTO THE AIR AND USED TEAR GAS IN AN ATTEMPT TO DISPERSE THE CHAVISTA ATTACKERS.

4. (U) NATIONAL GUARD (NG) TROOPS AND MILITARY POLICE PREVENTED OPPOSITION MARCHERS FROM REACHING THEIR DESTINATION IN THE PROCERES REGION OF CARACAS JANUARY 12. OPPOSITION LEADERS HAD CALLED THE MARCH TO PROCERES, A SYMBOLIC AREA OF THE CAPITAL WITH STATUES AND MONUMENTS COMMEMORATING VENEZUELAN HEROES, WITH THE STATED GOAL OF LAYING A WREATH.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 CARACA 00118 02 OF 03 221315Z
 THE MARCH STOPPED AS BARBED WIRE BARRICADES AND ARMORED VEHICLES. OFFICERS DISPERSED THE ANTI-GOV CROWD WITH TEAR GAS AND RUBBER BULLETS. PRESS REPORTED THAT OVER THIRTY PEOPLE WERE TREATED FOR ILLNESS AFTER EXPOSURE TO TEAR GAS AND A REPORTER COVERING THE EVENT WAS INJURED. ALTHOUGH THE POLICE ALLOWED A SMALL DELEGATION TO ENTER THE AREA, OPPOSITION LEADERS DECRIED WHAT THEY DESCRIBED AS THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE & AKIN TO THE GERMANS AT NORMANDY 8 AGAINST THE PEOPLE, S RIGHT TO VISIT THE SYMBOLIC PROCERES MONUMENTS.

 UNAPETROL DECRIES ENVIRONMENTAL OIL SPILLS

5. (U) LEADERS OF THE PETROLEUM WORKERS UNION UNAPETROL CHARGED JANUARY 13 THAT THE GOV WAS COVERING UP OIL SPILLS,

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THEREBY RISKING ENVIRONMENTAL "DISASTER." HORACIO MEDINA, PRESIDENT OF UNAPETROL, TOLD MEDIA THAT HUNDREDS OF BARRELS OF OIL HAVE BEEN SPILLED INTO LAKE MARACAIBO AS THE GOV ATTEMPTS TO RE-START THE OIL INDUSTRY STALLED BY THE ON-GOING STRIKE.

CABELLO NAMED MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE

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CONFIDENTIAL PTQ0180

PAGE 01 CARACA 00118 03 OF 03 221315Z
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INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	MFA-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CEA-01
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O 132129Z JAN 03 ZDS ZDK CITING RUEHCB 1810 0220131
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9540
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY
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PAGE 02 CARACA 00118 03 OF 03 221315Z
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NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 CARACAS 000118

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TREASURY FOR OASIA/INL - AARON JONES
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SUBJECT: VENEZUELA: POLITICAL UPDATE: JANUARY 13, 2003

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CARACA 00118 03 OF 03 221315Z

6. (C) DIOSDADO CABELLO WILL TAKE OVER DUTIES AS THE NEW
MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE, REPLACING ELIECER HURTADO,
PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ ANNOUNCED JANUARY 12. CABELLO IS
CURRENTLY MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND JUSTICE

CHAVEZ DID NOT YET NAME THE NEW
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR.

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CHURCH LEADERS RE-ENTER PUBLIC DEBATE,
SEEK ELECTORAL SOLUTION

8. (U) THE VENEZUELAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE ISSUED A STATEMENT THAT WAS READ AT EVERY CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE COUNTRY ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, URGING BOTH SIDES TO LOOK HARDER FOR AN ELECTORAL SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT CRISIS. IN THE STATEMENT, THE BISHOPS SAID THE RISING LEVELS OF "VERBAL, PHYSICAL AND MORAL VIOLENCE" PRESENTED A DANGER WHICH WOULD, IF NOT SOLVED SOON, COST ALL OF VENEZUELA DEARLY. THE BISHOPS CALLED ON THE JUDICIAL AND PUBLIC AUTHORITIES TO LIVE UP TO THEIR OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITIES, AND NOTED THAT IT IS THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM VIOLENCE. THE BISHOPS ALSO CALLED ON ALL PARTIES TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF OAS SYG GAVIRIA TO BROKER AN ELECTORAL SOLUTION AT THE NEGOTIATION TABLE. THE BISHOPS PLAN TO MEET WITH GAVIRIA AND NEGOTIATORS FROM BOTH SIDES TO DELIVER THEIR MESSAGE IN PERSON.
SHAPIRO

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